

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/535,404

Applicant(s)

FAVIER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Michael Bernshteyn

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is a response to the remarks filed September 21, 2006. No claims have been amended or added; claims 29-30 have been cancelled.
2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
3. In view of the examiner amendment the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph has been withdrawn.
4. Claims 16-28 are now pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffrey R. Bousquet on December 18, 2006.

6. Claim 16 has been amended as following:
 - in line 3 after the words 'number-average' delete the word "molar and insert the word 'molecular';
 - in line 4 after the words 'number-average' delete the words "molar weights" and insert the words 'molecular weight';

- in lines 5-6 after the words 'number-average' delete the words "molar weights" and insert the words 'molecular weight';
- after the words "a polymerization time of less than 8" delete the letter "h" and insert the word "hours".

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 16-28 are allowed.

8. The following is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present claims are allowable over the closest reference: Klaerner et al. (U.S. 6,716,948).

Klaerner discloses polymers having controlled architectures, controlled free-radical polymerization methods for preparing such polymers, separation media prepared from such polymers, and separation applications for such media. Klaerner discloses, more specifically, non-linear polyacrylamidic polymers having useful properties, such as controlled weight-average molecular weights, narrow polydispersity indices, flow-enabling viscosities, and water- or aqueous medium-solubility or dispersability, and to flowable separation media prepared from such polymers for use in capillary electrophoresis (col.1, lines 29-42).

However, Klaerner does not disclose or fairly suggests all the limitations of instant claim 1, including using an organosulfur reversible chain transfer agent, and simultaneously achieving the conversion of greater than 75% and polymerization time of

less than 8 hours keeping the claimed ranges of number-average molecular weight and a polydispersity index, which are required in the claimed process.

9. As of the date of this Notice of Allowability, the Examiner has not located or identified any reference that can be used singularly or in combination with another references including Klaerner et al. to render the present invention anticipated or obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

10. In the light of the above discussion, it is evident as to why the present claims are patentable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delay, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Bernshteyn whose telephone number is 571-272-2411. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 571-272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MB
12/18/2006

Michael Bernshteyn
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Art Unit 1713


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